

REMARKS

The present communication is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 13, 2010. Claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 have been amended. No new matter is added. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith.

Claims 1, 4-7, 11, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publn. No. 2002/0066113 to Utsonomiya et al. ("Utsonomiya") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,844 to Arai.

Claims 8-10 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Utsonomiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,010 to Koyama et al. ("Koyama").

Applicants respectfully disagree that Utsonomiya teaches storing end information. The passages of Utsonomiya cited by the Examiner merely indicate that end information may be received from a user. (4/13/10 Office Action, p.3). Nothing indicates that this received end information is stored in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information. Utsonomiya only teaches that consecutive recording information is stored. (Utsonomiya, ¶¶ [0048]-[0049]). With respect to end information, Utsonomiya describes that in the event a user sends a recording stop request to the recorder/player, the recorder/player in turn transmits this request to further devices. (Id., at ¶ [0058]). For at least this reason, Applicants maintain that the claims of the present application are patentable over Utsonomiya and the other cited references.

Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended the independent claims. Claim 1, for example, has been amended to recite:

"a recordation control process
executing section... for executing a process

of generating control information during data reproduction, the control information including reproduction procedure information in which a procedure for reproducing data is stored and reproduction management information in which link information to the reproduction procedure information, video/audio section data file names, time information, and video/audio header information are stored."

(Emphasis added).

Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at, for example, p.36, ¶ [0127]. Independent claims 8, 11, and 18 have been similarly amended.

None of Utsonomiya, Arai, or Koyama teach this limitation.

Utsonomiya, which is cited by the Examiner as teaching storing control information, fails to teach storing video/audio section data file names, time information, and video/audio header information. Rather, Utsonomiya merely teaches storing location information, including whether information is recorded on one player or on multiple players. If information is recorded on multiple players, the location information also indicates the order thereof. (Utsonomiya, ¶ [0084]). This is clearly not the same as storing video/audio section data file names, time information, and video/audio header information. Indeed, nothing in Utsonomiya may be considered equivalent to storing such information.

Arai fails to cure this defect. In fact, Arai, which does not even relate to storing data across multiple media, does not teach storing content management information at all.

Similarly, Koyama, which is also unrelated to recording content across a plurality of information recording means, also does not teach storing content management information.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 are patentable over Utsonomiya, Arai, and Koyama, taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 be withdrawn.

Further, for at least the reason that claims 4-7, 9-10, 14-17, and 19-20 depend from and include the limitations of claims 1, 8, 11, and 18, respectively, Applicants submit that these claims are also patentable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 4-7, 9-10, 14-17, and 19-20 also be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,
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